

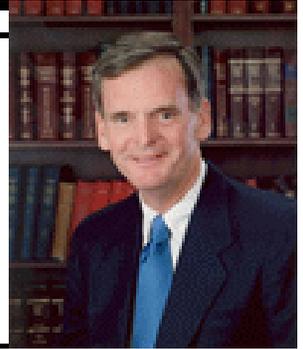
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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **GREGG QUESTIONS POWELL ABOUT DANGEROUS LINK BETWEEN HUSSEIN AND AL QAEDA**

*Sen. chairs Senate hearing on State Department, speaks about threat posed by Hussein's weapons capabilities*

WASHINGTON— U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary, today heard testimony and questioned U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. During the hearing on the Fiscal Year 2004 State Department budget, Senator Gregg took the opportunity to ask Secretary Powell about the situation in Iraq and the direct connection between Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq and the terrorist group Al Qaeda. The following is today's exchange between Senator Gregg and Secretary Powell.

**Senator Gregg:** "In an interview with Time magazine, Osama bin Laden said the following, 'Acquiring weapons for the defense of Muslims is a religious duty. If I have indeed acquired these weapons, then I thank God for enabling me to do so. And if I seek to acquire these weapons, I am carrying out a duty. It would be a sin for Muslims not to try to possess the weapons that would prevent the infidels from inflicting harm on Muslims.' He had earlier said, 'We, with Allah's help, call on every Muslim who believes in Allah and wishes to be rewarded to comply with Allah's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it...The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies, civilians and military, is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it.' What today is to stop Saddam Hussein from delivering to this criminal individual who has already participated in the murder of thousands of Americans those weapons of mass destruction?"

**Secretary of State Colin Powell:** "Nothing is prepared to stop him today if he chooses to do so. We want to take away his option of doing so by disarming the Iraqi regime and Saddam Hussein. The chilling words you just read Mr. Chairman, from somebody who is committed to strike us again and again and again- let there be no doubt about it. He will use airplanes filled with fuel, he will use car bombs, and as he said in those quotations, if he had weapons of mass destruction he would use them. Should there be a doubt in anyone's mind if Osama bin Laden, or others terrorist like Osama bin Laden, had access to chemical or biological or nuclear weapons, they would use them. If there was any doubt in anyone's mind, that doubt should have been erased on 9/11. And that's why

after 9/11 we realized the nature of the conflict we were now in. And we had to deal with the Taliban in Afghanistan and we had to break up Al Qaeda, and you saw with the recent arrest over the weekend of the gentleman who is the brains of the organization that struck us on 9/11. We have to go after not only these individuals, but go after the potential sources of their weaponry. And that is why we redoubled our effort, in making it clear to the United Nations, that we could no longer allow its resolutions to be ignored with respect to Iraq, a known developer of weapons of mass destruction. And that is why the moment we find ourselves in now is a critical moment where we are being tested and where the Security Council, the United Nations and the international community is being tested; are we going to allow an individual such as Saddam Hussein to continue to develop these weapons of mass destruction or deceive us into believing that he isn't when we know he is because it's too hard to face the consequences of dealing with the truth and face the situation some years from now when Osama bin Laden has accomplished the goal he laid out in his statement, and he has such a weapon and he got it from Iraq. So we must go after these countries, these rogue nations that proliferate, led by leaders who would strike us and who have shown in the past they will strike their own neighbors, strike their own people, do anything to stay in power to pursue their own agenda, and that's the argument I will be taking to the U.N. this afternoon.”

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